EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
# Digest
Fall 2012

# Achieving Dreams

On September 27, friends of the Educational Foundation gathered at Allgauer's on the Riverfront to celebrate Oakton's best and brightest students during the Donor Recognition Banquet. The evening also honored the generous businesses, organizations, and individuals who enabled the Foundation to award 541 scholarships totaling nearly $630,000—the largest number in the Foundation's 35-year history!

Donors funded 19 new scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year, including:

- Allstate Insurance Company Scholarship
- Aon Scholarship
- John Crane Inc. STEM Scholarship
- Des Plaines Community Foundation Scholarships—Investing in Our Future
- Annette Dewett Scholarship Endowment
- Korbel Study Abroad Scholarship
- Legat Architects Scholarship
- First Bank of Highland Park Scholarship for Opportunity
- Beverly Friend Scholarship
- Future Innovator Scholarship
- David S. Jakes Technology Scholarship
- Dr. Gregory C. James Memorial Scholarship

*Linda Korbel, Dean of Languages, Humanities, and the Arts (right), congratulates Bhumika Patel, the Francis and Anne Specht Memorial Scholarship recipient.*

- Dr. Michael S. Maling Scholarship in Psychology
- The Oakton OCCurrence Scholarship Endowment
- Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton, and Taylor Scholarship
- Sikich LLP Scholarship
- UL Scholarship for Academic Excellence
- Dr. Rolf Weil Scholarship
- Bob and Marge Whitman Technical Scholarship

*continued*

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# Achieving Dreams *continued*

**1.** *Friends celebrate Oakton benefactors and students who are "achieving dreams." Clockwise from back row: Diana Lisowska, Footlik STEM Scholarship recipient; Dr. Margaret B. Lee, President of Oakton Community College; Gerald Horwitz, former Foundation Director; Mahavish Mahmood, Irving M. and Sylvia Footlik Foundation Scholarship recipient; Ma Czarrina Castro, Rolf Weil Scholarship recipient; Cristina Castro; Dr. Charles Middleton, President of Roosevelt University; Dr. Margaret Policastro; Dr. Rolf Weil, President Emeritus of Roosevelt University; Sylvia Footlik, Foundation Senior Vice President; Roberta Horwitz; and Janice Footlik.*

**2.** *Joan Hall, Trustee Emeritus, and her son Brad congratulate Rigoberto Mora (right), the Joan B. and Frank B. Hall Scholarship recipient.*

**3.** *Clockwise from back row: Michael and Dr. Carlee Drummer, Executive Director of College Advancement; Mary LeGere and benefactor Adele LeGere accompany scholarship recipient, Marlyn Limiac.*

**4.** *Donors and scholarship recipients enjoy the evening. Clockwise from back row: Leigh Glavanovic, William E. Spaulding Memorial Scholarship recipient; Mirko Glavanovic; Rigoberto Mora, Joan B. and Frank B. Hall Scholarship recipient; Theresa Bashiri-Remetio, Frank J. Chulay Scholarship recipient; Frank and Irma Chulay; Robert W. and Corrine Spaulding.*

**5.** *David DeCoursey-James congratulates Tarika Williams, the Dr. Gregory C. James Memorial Scholarship recipient.*

# *In His Words:* Student Michael Underwood Reflects on the Donor Recognition Banquet

Receiving mail as a college student is somewhat of a gamble. Often, there are bills and piles of advertisements waiting to be opened. However, the mail was in my favor when I discovered a scholarship award letter from Oakton. I was in such shock that I didn't even finish reading the letter. In my mind, the details didn't matter. I desperately needed financial assistance, and felt so lucky to receive a scholarship!

A short time later, I visited the College bookstore. While I was waiting in line to purchase my books, I noticed people who looked concerned and distressed. This was a humbling moment. I remembered when I used to worry about purchasing books and paying for tuition. With this in mind, I became even more grateful for my scholarship and those who believed in me.

Eventually, I received another letter from Oakton. This time it was an invitation to a banquet honoring donors and scholarship recipients. Again, I was thankful and surprised. The semester had just begun and I was on an emotional rollercoaster. First, I was thrilled to have received a scholarship. Then, I remembered the times when I could barely afford anything. Finally, I realized I was going to meet the individuals who helped me and so many other students, which was incredibly exciting.

*Michael Underwood (left), a second-year student majoring in marketing, rejoices with David DeCoursey-James.*

I truly enjoyed attending the ceremony at Allgauer's on the Riverfront and meeting people who make a difference in students' lives. After the event, I felt inspired to continue to work hard and accomplish my academic and professional goals. The Ray and Rhea Hartstein "Books for Knowledge" Scholarship will make that journey possible.

# Foundation Welcomes New Director

The Educational Foundation proudly announces the appointment of new Director Alyse Cohen Burman. Burman is the co-owner of AP Lifeline, an independent distributor of the Lifeline Personal Emergency Response System. In the past seven years, AP Lifeline has become the largest franchise of its kind in Illinois and fifth in sales nationally. From 1982 until 2005, Burman co-owned Sentimental Journey, an event planning company specializing in corporate events. Prior to starting her own businesses, Burman was the Director of Marketing for Yardley of London in Chicago and Marketing Manager for Rand McNally in Skokie.

A tireless volunteer, Burman is the President of Chicago Continuity of Care, an organization that advocates for legislative and community-related health issues; Chair of Special Events for the District 219 Education Foundation for Excellence; and Chair of Special Events for the Women's Board of Skokie Hospital.

Burman earned a bachelor of arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a master of public administration from Roosevelt University. She also completed MBA coursework at the Lake Forest School of Management.

# Revelry, Racing, and Rooting for Students

In August, Educational Foundation supporters and horse-racing lovers gathered at Arlington Park for Oakton's annual *Make Dreams Come True* benefit. The event featured a caricature artist, mystery wine sale, raffle, and fabulous silent auction that included Bears and Cubs tickets, international trips, artwork, jewelry, and more.

Thanks to the generosity of guests and sponsors including Winner's Circle Sponsor, Legat Architects; Racers' Edge Sponsors, First Bank of Highland Park and Turner Construction; and Paddock Partner Sponsors, Daubenspeck and Associates and Sikich, LLP, the event raised nearly $30,000 for the Student Scholarship Fund.

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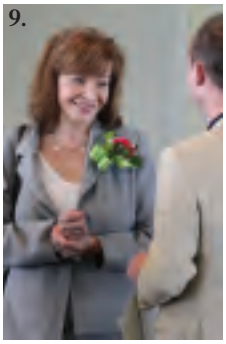
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**1.** *Foundation Directors, Harry Tankus (left) and Tom Tippett enjoy a window overlooking the track with their wives, Lila and Jeri.*

**2.** *Oakton and Legat Architects team up for a photo finish. Clockwise from back row: Carl Costanza, Vice President of Business and Finance; Jeffrey Sronkoski, Michael Lundeen, Alan and Dianne Bombick, Jennifer Lundeen, Sandra Bialek, and Debbie Costanza.*

**3.** *Clockwise from back row: Smiling for the camera are Julian Levy; Dr. Carlee Drummer, Executive Director of College Advancement; Paulette Levy, Foundation Affiliate; and Sylvia Footlik, Foundation Senior Vice President.*

**4.** *Clockwise from back row: Taking a break from perusing the silent auction are Don Koop, Foundation Director, and his wife Terri; and Tony and Terry Bliudzius.*

**5.** *Clockwise from back row: It's a sure bet that guests Joey Hernandez, Dan Trzeciak, Gerald Santiago, Kate McMahon, Kari Wulfsohn, Lindsey Price, and Dustin Martinez are enjoying the festivities.*

**6.** *From left: Craig Johnson and Vicki Prot, Foundation Director, share the day's revelry with Pam and Don Hermanek, former Foundation Directors.*

**7.** *Shannon O'Connell is all smiles after claiming her raffle prize.*

**8.** *Jeffrey Rodriguez, Foundation Director, delights in a "perfecta" day with his wife Jaime.*

**9.** *Barbara Groshon, Foundation Director, shares Oakton student success stories with a friend.*

**10.** *Karen Wickman poses for caricature artist Larry Cohen.*

**11.** *Rima Daubenspeck (seated) and Laura Bobbit consider which horses will win, place, or show.*

# Hartstein Award Recipients

Hollace Graff, professor of philosophy, and Shelley Cohen, instructor of psychology, received the 2012 Ray Hartstein Awards for Outstanding Professional Excellence in Teaching presented at the College's annual celebration to kick off the new academic year.

Joining the Oakton faculty in 1998, Graff earned her bachelor of arts from Michigan State and her master of arts and doctor of philosophy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Taking great pride in helping her students overcome difficult situations, she is a mentor to many and maintains long-term relationships with Oakton alumni.

Considering herself a "life coach," Cohen earned her bachelor of arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago and master of arts from Northwestern University. In addition to being a Psychology 101 teacher, she believes that it is her responsibility "not only to educate but also to encourage and motivate students to be the best they can be."

Named for the founder of Oakton's Board of Trustees, the Ray Hartstein Awards annually recognize one full-time and one part-time faculty member. Nominees must demonstrate excellence in teaching and respect for students and peers. Following a review by the Student Government Association, the Educational Foundation Grants Committee selects the winners.

*From left: Shelley Cohen; Tom Tippett, chair of the Educational Foundation Grants Committee; and Hollace Graff.*

## Cleared for Take-off!

*Dr. Trudy Bers, Oakton's Executive Director of Research, Curriculum, and Planning, obtains a pre-flight briefing from chief flight instructor, Jim McCormack, at the Stick and Rudder Flying Club in Waukegan. Bers submitted the highest bid during the Oakton at Arlington auction for a one-hour "discovery flight" in a Cessna 172.*

# Digest

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*The* Foundation Digest *commemorates the Educational Foundation's past and future commitment to Oakton Community College. Published three times a year, the* Digest *contains news about College programs and services and reports on Foundation accomplishments.*

## Upcoming Event

This annual fundraiser showcases Chicago's best legal minds in parodies of political, sports, and show business celebrities.

**Tickets are $50 and include a reception and post-performance party.**

**To reserve your seat, call 847.635.1893.**

Proceeds benefit the Oakton Educational Foundation Scholarship Fund and the Charles N. Goodnow Chicago Bar Association Scholarship.